



**City of Santa Barbara
PARKS AND RECREATION DEPARTMENT**

**Regular monthly meeting of
THE WESTSIDE CENTER ADVISORY COMMITTEE**

Thursday, August 14, 2008

Minutes

CALL TO ORDER: The Westside Center Advisory Committee meeting was called to order by Chairperson Carlos Guerrero at 7:05 PM at the Westside Community Center., 423 West Victoria Street, Santa Barbara, CA.

ROLL CALL:

Members Present

Vidal Chiprez
Carlos Guerrero
Raquel Vela Mendoza
Jesús Rodríguez

Members Absent

Rosalina Palacios
Gloria Franco

Staff Present

Antonio A. Velasquez, Community Services Supervisor
Robert Peirson, Finance Director

Liaisons Present

None

Guests

Lucero Marquez, SER Program Coordinator

APPROVAL OF MINUTES: It was moved (Chiprez) and seconded (Mendoza) to approve the minutes as read. Passed unanimously.

AGENDA ADJUSTMENTS: New business item on Measure G was moved up for discussion first.

ANNOUCEMENTS: None

PUBLIC COMMENT: None

SUBCOMMITTEE REPORTS:

- a. **Community Garden Report** – Staff announced that all garden plots have been rented with a waiting list of seventeen. Staff reported that for the first time gardeners were reporting incidences of vegetable theft at the gardens. Staff will increase monitoring to determine whether stricter enforcement measures are warranted.

NEW BUSINESS:

- a. **Measure G** – Robert Pierson, City of Santa Barbara Finance Director was present to provide information to the Committee on the Telecommunication and Video users Tax Reduction and Modernization Ordinance also known as measure G. As reported, Measure G was unanimously placed by City Council on the November 4, 2008 ballot; directed staff to provide information to help the community understand the Measure; and inform that many City departments could be affected by a potential loss of revenue. See attachment #1. No action was taken.

OLD BUSINESS:

- a. **Community Center Park Area Renovation Project** – Staff informed the Committee that the project was still on track to begin this winter. The project will consist of new fencing around the cul de sac, wall lighting, and benches in three locations. Climbing vines will be planted along the sound wall with the addition of palm trees near the street. The handball court will remain as will the half court for basketball. An extra hoop will be installed for young children. The old playground equipment will be replaced.
- b. **Communities for Healthy Kids** – Staff informed the Committee that both the Lower Westside and Franklin Community Centers would be hosting events such as was held at the Westside Center. The respective center advisory committees are discussing possible dates for these events. Communities for Healthy Kids that hopes to recruit families for the free to low-cost medical/dental insurance program, has offered a budget of \$500 for expenses for each of the events.
- c. **SER/Job for Progress/Workforce Investment Board Grant** – Lucero Marquez, SER Program Coordinator, was present to update the Committee on progress in meeting its goals this year. To date, there have been over 151 youth contacts with 62 enrollments qualified for educational/occupational placement. See attachment #2.

NEW BUSINESS:

- a. **Neighborhood Preservation Projects 2009** – the Committee discussed the need for steps on both sides of the Micheltorena Street bridge at Euclid and San Pascual Streets as potential neighborhood preservation projects to refer to CDBG for possible funding. The Committee also requested a large street map of the West Downtown and Westside neighborhoods in order to conduct a street light need inventory.

- b. Community Services Section Project Update** – Staff reported that Community Services had received a \$15,000 grant for its Youth Arts Alliance youth-related programming. Also, the Section is involved in coordinating youth employment information opportunities under the recently organized Youth Job Connections. This effort will identify and bring together youth. Job providers and job-related service providers to share information and resources.

ADJOURNMENT:

At 8:00 PM, there being no further business to come before the committee, the Westside Center Advisory Committee meeting was adjourned by Acting Chairperson, Carlos Guerrero.

Respectfully submitted,
Antonio A. Velasquez
Community Services Supervisor